



Carbon Sequestration Fact Sheet

Idaho Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee (ICSAC)
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC)

Idaho Code 22-5103, enacted on July 1, 2002, instructed the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) to prepare a report exploring the potential for carbon sequestration on agricultural and private, non-industrial forestlands. In addition, this legislation called for the appointment of a 19-member Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee to be chaired by ISCC.

A document was completed and submitted to the Legislature in February 2003, entitled ***Carbon Sequestration on Idaho Agricultural and Forest Lands***. This report described Idaho's great potential for both terrestrial and geologic carbon sequestration.

1. **Advisory Committee recommendations** from the report:
 - a. The Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee to continue monitoring ongoing developments, facilitate economic analysis, facilitate research activities, and provide information to landowners
 - b. Initiate a carbon market pilot project
 - c. Improve landowners' understanding of carbon sequestration and climate change
 - d. Enhance carbon sequestration research relevant to Idaho
 - e. Complete carbon sequestration and **greenhouse gas** (GHG) baseline analysis to prepare for future carbon sequestration markets
 - f. Further study the potential economic benefits to Idaho Landowners and the State through carbon markets
 - g. Explore requiring carbon participants to be registered with the State
 - h. Explore avenues to increase carbon sequestration with the State
 - i. Explore the potential for improving the production and use of biofuels in the State, and their associated economic benefits
2. **Memorandum of Understanding:** The *Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership* and the *Idaho Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee* signed an MOU on January 10, 2005
 - a. Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Eastern Washington are now working in partnership to define characteristics of promising terrestrial and geologic storage sites
 - b. Other priorities defined by the MOU include
 - i. Identify, verify, and apply future GHG measurement and technologies
 - ii. Identify carbon sequestration technologies and/or practices
 - c. Provided technical input regarding agricultural practices used in Idaho in order to assist in developing regional carbon sequestration protocols for agriculture
3. The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission entered into a contract with Northwest Management, Inc. (Moscow, Idaho) for professional services for developing an *Idaho Carbon Exchange Protocol*, dated July 1, 2006
 - a. Final Draft "*Idaho Carbon Credit Exchange Framework*" completed August 15, 2007
 - b. At the November 15, 2007 Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee meeting, the decision was made to use components of the Framework document to help focus on five key components for implementation and move forward on action items related to the key components listed as follows:
 - i. Information Outreach



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- ii. Carbon Sequestration Pilot Project
 - iii. Technical Research
 - iv. Geologic Sequestration
 - v. Carbon Encumbrance Registry for the State
4. Current status of the Advisory Committee's progress in implementing the five key focus components:
- a. Information Outreach**

The ISCC has developed an enhancement to its website, www.scc.idaho.gov, for carbon sequestration, and assisted with enhancement of the Idaho OnePlan website, www.oneplan.org, to include "how-to" information directly to farmers and ranchers who want to initiate carbon trading activities

 - i. On January 26, 2006, the Advisory Committee meeting was held in Idaho Falls, and included participation of local farmer and ranchers in order to assess their interest in participating in a pilot carbon sequestration project. Interest level was high. Three more follow-up meetings were held in the area with local owners, operators, local Soil Conservation Districts, the High Country and Three Rivers RC&D Council representatives, and the *National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC)*
 - ii. Numerous slideshow presentations have been presented to agencies, interest groups, farmer and ranchers, and legislative committees
 - iii. The Advisory Committee is currently implementing its information and outreach plan
 - iv. A representative of the Advisory Committee (Dick Wittman, farmer) represented Idaho agricultural interests during national Congressional Hearings for potential "cap and trade" legislation
 - b. Carbon Trading Pilot Projects in Idaho**
 - i. The Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association (PNDSA) and Idaho farmers are currently participating in cropland trades involving no-till (direct seed) and precision agriculture. These trades are brokered with private entities.
 - ii. The Nez Perce Tribe is currently implementing Idaho's first forestry trade, aggregated through the NCOC, and marketed on the *Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX)*.
 - iii. The High Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council and the Three Rivers RC&D Council, along with several local Soil Conservation Districts in Eastern Idaho, are currently involved with the ISCC in working with a number of ranchers to develop and implement a rangeland and grassland pilot project aggregated by NCOC and marketed through CCX
 - iv. The Clearwater RC&D Council is working on an urban forestry carbon trading project with the cities of Moscow and Sandpoint, which is also being aggregated by NCOC and marketed through CCX



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Note:

A major impediment to Idaho's ability to move forward at a more aggressive pace in pursuing additional agriculture trading projects is the lack of a CCX-approved "Cropping Region Designation."

After two years of e-mail correspondence and numerous phone calls requesting an approved "Cropping Region Designation" from the Chicago Climate Exchange for the State of Idaho, a formal letter (with supporting documentation) signed by Celia Gould, Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and Jerry Nicolescu, Administrator of the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission was sent to the Chicago Climate Exchange. To date, there has been no action by CCX.

c. Research

- i. ISCC is currently working with soil scientists from the *University of Idaho*, *Washington State University*, and the *Agriculture Research Service (ARS)* to research and quantify soil organic carbon values under different management practices for dryland agriculture in Idaho. It is our intention to forward this data to CCX in support of our request for a "Cropping Region Designation" in Idaho.
- ii. ISCC worked with the *Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)* to develop tables and GIS maps showing soil organic matter concentrations for all soils mapped within the State. This statewide characterization can be broken down by County, watershed, and/or individual farm levels.
- iii. ISCC is also working with NRCS to refine the COMET model for the State of Idaho. The purpose is to have a better tool to calculate potential carbon estimates for sequestration projects.

d. Geologic Sequestration

- i. The Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), University of Idaho, Boise State University, and Idaho State University, continue to explore the potential for geologic carbon sequestration
- ii. Continuing to support geologic characterization of Idaho for future potential carbon sequestration
- iii. Investigate policy, permitting, and other legal issues involved with geologic sequestration
- iv. Provide support for the *Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES)*

e. Carbon Sequestration Registry

- i. ISCC is currently working on a template for a carbon encumbrance registry to record and track all carbon sequestered within the State, including all trades with private entities as well as those traded on the CCX